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The general health of Ponce shows little change. The report of infectious diseases for the week shows 3 cases of typhoid fever, but this is usual in this season of the year.

Nothing of interest has occurred among the shipping during the week.

Respectfully, yours,  
*P. MALARET,*  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Temporary Charge.*  
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction during the two weeks ended August 26, 1899: Aortitis, chronic, 2; bilious remittent fever, 1; bronchitis, chronic, 1; congestion of lungs, 1; chloro-anæmia, 3; cholera infantum, 1; diphtheria, 1; drowned, 51; dysentery, chronic, 1; dyspepsia, 1; enteritis, acute, 2; enteritis, chronic, 7; entero-colitis, chronic, 7; erysipelas, 1; gangrene (old age), 1; gangrene of vulva, 1; gastro-enteritis, acute, 2; gastro-hepatitis, 1; gastrorrhagia, 1; hepatitis, chronic, 2; inanition, 7; malarial fever, 5; metritis, 1; metrorrhagia, 1; meningitis, cerebral, 1; meningitis by measles, 1; nephritis, chronic, 1; paralysis of heart, 1; pernicious fever, 1; pneumonia, 1; puerperal fever, 1; pyæmia, 1; smallpox, 2; strangulated hernia, 1; tetanus infantum, 4; tuberculosis, pulmonary, 12; valvular disease of heart, 1; total, 130. Births during the same period, 12.

PONCE, PORTO RICO, *September 2, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the weekly quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 2.

I also inclose tabulated statement of the transactions of the Service at this port during the month of August, with comparative figures for the same month of the past year, and similar statistics concerning the health reports of Ponce.

We have had a week's rain storm; the river that crosses the road between Ponce and this Playa flooded and hardly any communication was had for two days between the harbor and the city. The bridge was carried away on August 8, and has not been replaced yet. Besides this unfortunate state of affairs, we have had boisterous weather all along interfering with all business transactions during the last week.

Nothing of interest has occurred during the week among the shipping, and the general health of Ponce continues as before.

Respectfully, yours,  
*P. MALARET,*  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Temporary Charge.*  
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Summary of transactions of service, etc., during August, 1899.*

Total number of deaths reported during August, 1899, 354; total number of deaths reported during August, 1898, 178; total number of births reported during August, 1899, 40; total number of births reported during August, 1898, 35; total number of vessels inspected during August, 1899, 22; total number of bills of health issued during August, 1899, 22; number of vessels in quarantine during August, 1899, 1; number of passengers whose baggage was disinfected during August, 1899, none; number of vessels inspected during August, 1898, 21; number of vessels which sailed during August, 1898, 18; number of immigrants inspected during August, 1899, 45; rejections, none.

*Sanitary report from San Juan and subports—the hurricane.*

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *September 6, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Service during the month of August, 1899: Number of

births reported, 49; number of births reported, August, 1898, comparative, 24; number of deaths reported, 63; number of deaths reported, August, 1898, comparative, 53. A list of the causes of deaths is inclosed herewith. Number of vessels inspected, 39; number of vessels inspected, August, 1898, comparative, 7; number of vessels in observation quarantine, 2; number of persons detained in observation quarantine, 13. These passengers were arrivals on the Spanish steamers from Havana, and were nonimmunes, and held to complete the five-day period of observation. Number of pieces of baggage disinfected, 45; number of vessels in absolute quarantine, 1. This vessel was the U. S. transport *Kilpatrick*, which arrived here on August 17, direct from Cuban ports, having a foul bill of health, in bad sanitary condition, and a suspicious case of sickness on board. On account of this it was not deemed safe to admit her to free pratique, and I recommended to the military authorities that she be ordered north for disinfection, which was done.

Vaccination is still being practiced, although there are no cases of smallpox, and certificates issued to all persons leaving the island for the United States and Cuba. Ninety-five such certificates were issued and viséd during August.

The consolidated reports from the subports for the month are as follows: Number of vessels inspected at Mayaguez, 12; at Aguadilla, 6; at Arecibo, 4; Fajardo, 4; at Humacao, 2, and at Arroyo, 2. The number of deaths during the month were 130 at Arecibo; 121 at Mayaguez; 103 at Humacao; 48 at Aguadilla; 21 at Arroyo, and 18 at Fajardo. The principal causes of these deaths are anæmia and diseases of the stomach, although quite a few lost their lives in the recent storm, as will be shown further on in this report.

The hurricane reached this island on the night of the 7th of August, and continued until the afternoon of the 8th. The wind blew furiously, at one time attaining a velocity of about 85 miles per hour, and in some places on the island blew down quite a number of houses and destroyed all of the crops, leaving many persons homeless. Rain accompanied the wind, and added to the disaster by causing the streams to overflow their banks. Many of the towns situated in the low valleys were thus flooded and lives and property destroyed. Particularly was this true of Ponce, Arecibo, and Comerio. The list of deaths reported by the sanitary inspectors of the subports as being directly attributed to the storm are as follows: At Humacao, 57; Arecibo, 18; Arroyo, 6, and Mayaguez, 12. In this place a few houses were unroofed, telephone and other wires blown down, a few persons hurt by flying débris, but no serious damage done. A small schooner was blown on the reef in the harbor, and one of the crew was drowned; the others were picked up by the naval collier *Cæsar*.

Respectfully, yours,

A. H. GLENNAN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Vital statistics of San Juan, Porto Rico, for August, 1899.*

Death rate August, 1899: Asphyxia neonatorum, 2; athrepsia, 2; abscess of the liver, 1; anæmia, 2; bronchitis, 1; broncho-pneumonia, 2; cirrhosis of the liver, 4; carcinoma of the uterus, 1; pulmonary congestion, 2; cerebral congestion, 2; serous congestion of the brain, 2; old age, 2; hypertrophy of the heart, 3; dysentery, 1; insanity, 2; enterocolitis, 1; chronic enteritis, 2; puerperal eclampsia, 1; burned, 1;

typhoid fever, 2; pernicious malarial fever, 1; gastro-enteritis, 2; dropsy, 1; acute hepatitis, 1; hemorrhage (traumatic), 2; meningo-encephalitis, 1; tuberculous meningitis, 1; acute peritonitis, 1; rachitis, 3; paralysis, 1; acute rheumatism, 1; syncope, 1; syphilis, 1; pulmonary tuberculosis, 8; intestinal tuberculosis, 1; tetanus neonatorum, 1; total, 63. August, 1898: Births, 24; deaths, 53. August, 1899: births, 49; deaths, 63.

Respectfully submitted.

A. H. GLENNAN,  
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

The SURGEON-GENERAL U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

#### REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

*Eagle Pass, Tex., September 13, 1899.*—During the past ten days 7 persons were taken from the train at this port, none having the proper certificates to permit entry. The detention camp has been taxed to its utmost.

Besides these 7 people detained here, I refused entry to 10 more on the footbridge.

It seems that every railroad depot in Mexico is placarded to the effect that no one will be allowed entry at the frontier unless bearing a certificate, etc., from an officer of the Marine-Hospital Service in Mexico, or some consul, deputy consul, or consular agent in that republic. A report from one of the United States sanitary guards (U. S. M. H. S.) at Presidio, informs me that the smallpox situation in Mexico is assuming a more serious aspect, and the Mexicans are trying very hard to get to this side of the Rio Grande. Mr. Drake has ordered me to leave on the first train for Presidio and enforce the Marine-Hospital Service regulations. I feel that, although the condition of the Mexican side is serious, one can keep the smallpox from gaining any further footing on American territory. It may be necessary to erect a detention camp or pesthouse on this side of the river near Presidio. I shall endeavor to make Presidio County stand the expense of the same and keep it properly guarded. Will keep the Bureau informed.

I have the honor to remain,

Most respectfully,

LEA HUME,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*El Paso, Tex., September 10, 1899.*—I have the honor to report that during the week ended September 9, 1899, there arrived on the Mexican Central 2 women and a child from the City of Mexico, neither of them having certificates or marks of disinfection on their baggage. They refused to give information of their residence four days prior to their arrival at the City of Mexico. Ascertaining from the passengers in the same train that the party spoke of their fleeing from an infected place, I detained them four days and disinfected their baggage. No arrivals from Tampico.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,  
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

*Laredo, Tex., September 12, 1899.*—SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the inspection service for the week ended September 9, 1899:

International ferry: Inspected and permitted to enter, 721; refused entry, 6. Total inspected, 727.

International foot and tramway bridge: Inspected and permitted to enter, 2,344; refused entry, 8. Total inspected, 2,352. The above includes 19 immigrants.